

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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S/S - O - RELTZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

S E C R E T STATE 015739

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US

SUBJECT: PACE OF SINO-US RELATIONS: PRESS PROBLEMS

REF: HONG KONG 255

1. WE RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM OUTLINED REFTTEL AND THAT IT IS ESPECIALLY ACUTE AMONG CHINA-WATCHING JOURNALISTS IN HONG KONG. HOWEVER, AS CONGEN SUGGESTS, WE THINK IT INADVISABLE TO ATTEMPT TO REFUTE ALL PRESS STORIES ABOUT PRC DISSATISFACTION OR IMIATIENCE, PARTICULARLY THOSE (LIKE JAFFE'S) SOURCED TO A CHINESE OFFICIAL. SPECULATIVE STORIES, SOME OFF THE BEAM, ARE PROBABLY INEVITABLE.

2. WE INTEND TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM HERE ALONG LINES PARA 3, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT USED IT YET ON-THE-RECORD. WE PREFER THAT ANY SUCH COMMENT ORIGINATE IN WASHINGTON,

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BUT CONGEN AND USLO MAY USE IT ON COMPLETELY NON-

ATTRIBUTED BASIS WHEN YOU THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN DISCUSSION WITH JOURNALISTS.

3. QUOTE: LET ME TRY TO PUT THIS MATTER INTO PROPER PERSPECTIVE. THE BASIC POINT IS THAT THE RELATIONSHIP

REMAINS SOUND. THE CHINESE WISH TO MAINTAIN THE RELATIONSHIP AND WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO FURTHER NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. HOWEVER, THE TAIWAN ISSUE IS COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT. THE CHINESE RECOGNIZE THIS AND ARE PREPARED TO EXERCISE PATIENCE. BUT UNTIL THE TAIWAN ISSUE IS RESOLVED, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL PROBABLY NOT BE FULLY SATISFIED WITH THE FORM OF OUR RELATIONSHIP AND WE MAY SEE SOME EVIDENCE OF THIS AT TIMES. UNQUOTE.

4. FYI, JAFFE'S STORY IN THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS BASED ON HIS INTERVIEW WITH YU CHAN WAS NOT, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, CARRIED IN OTHER MAJOR U.S. PAPERS. KISSINGER

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